

**UTAH CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
ON
CHEMICAL WEAPONS DEMILITARIZATION**

**Thursday, May 15, 2003
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
168 North 1950 West
Second Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84119**

6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members present:

Geoff Silcox (GS)
Dan Bauer (DB)
Rosemary Holt (RH)
Dennis Downs (DD)
Beverly White (BW)
David Ostler (DO)
Jane Bowman (JB)
Michael Keene (MK)
Sid Hullinger (SH)

Members absent:

Gene White
Deborah Kim
John Bennett

Michael Keene called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Keene was asked to moderate the meeting, as Deborah Kim was unable to attend.

Corrections in the minutes:

Gene White was not at the last meeting. Typographical errors were corrected. A motion to approve the minutes with the changes indicated was entertained. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Deseret Chemical Depot Update – Colonel Cooper

Colonel Cooper had a very short presentation. A handout was provided. There were no “leakers” reported at the time of this meeting. The Dept of Army has been conducting an inspection at the Depot during the past three weeks as part of the Army Chemical Surety Program to ensure the safe and secure storage of the munitions. DCD has passed the inspection. The mustard sampling program at CAMDS continues. Eighty two (82) ton containers have been completed as of this meeting. The systemization of the Lewisite continues. There are few issues that still need to be addressed such as the monitoring. The metal parts furnace has been brought back on line to process secondary waste.

There were no questions from the CAC or members of the community.

Program Status – Dale Ormond

Mr. Ormond discussed the status of the Chemical Demilitarization program. A handout was provided. Mr. Ormond reviewed the status of each facility. In Aberdeen, there were a few issues regarding the mustard agent. A study is underway to refine decontamination procedures. Anniston is ready to begin agent operations. A decision had been reached on February 12, 2003 at the Bluegrass facility to proceed with neutralization. Johnston Atoll is scheduled to close in December of this year. At Newport, construction is eighty six percent (86%) complete. At Pine Bluff, systemization is more than eighty one percent (81%) complete. Agent operations are scheduled for 3rd Quarter 2004. At Pueblo, the final technology choice is neutralization bio-treatment. At Umatilla, systemization still continues with agent operations to begin 1st Quarter of 2004. There were no questions from the CAC or members of the community.

Plant Status/Restart Update – Tom A. Kurkky/ Stephen Frankiewicz

Mr. Kurkky gave an update of the processing data. He discussed the significant events that are going to occur in May and June which includes a full scale Operation Readiness Reviews for the projectile processing, ton container processing and the agent collection system recirculation sampling system. Forty four percent (44%) of the total TOCDF stockpile has been destroyed. The plant began processing VX rockets on March 28, 2003. There was no detectable agent released from the stack or vent. Rocket processing is still occurring on day shift. There were two action level 3 incidents; the cause was the same for both incidents. The first incident was a confirmed ACAMS alarm in the X-ray fluorescence Room, there were two people in the area at that time (April 22). The second incident was a confirmed ACAMS alarm in the observation corridor (May 3). There were ten (10) people in the area at that time. There were no signs of exposure. The corrective actions taken include a temporary system being removed and permanent configuration was placed in service. All temporary changes are being reviewed by the Configuration Control Board, and prior to restart, all current temporary changes were reviewed and approved. The report is still being finalized and any other changes will wait until that is complete. Any long-term corrections will wait until complete review.

Q-David Ostler-Is it a ball valve or a check valve?

A-I believe it is a ball valve

Q-RH-How many people were exposed?

A-Two people were exposed at the incident on April 22. 10 people were exposed at the May 3, 2003 incident.

Q-MK-What level of protective gear were the employees wearing?

A-Coveralls and street clothing

Q-GS-What is ACS?

A- Agent Collection System (ACS). The Tanks feed into the LIC. The Operational Readiness Review is going to be on the recirculation system and the sampling system.

Q-What do the categories stand for?

A-Category A-Liquid Agent present, Cat B-Vapor present, Cat C-no agent present.

Q-DD-Does EG & G have an employee retention program? Are they experiencing a high-rate of turnover?

A-Stephen Frankiewicz-We have been hiring lately, we have about 4000 resumes for 100 jobs. We don't have a lot of turnover; we are hiring additional personnel for the engineering division. We are not experiencing a lot of turnover, there is some usual turnover, but people are not leaving because they are expecting the plant to close down. We are going to address the situation to ensure we keep our very good employees, to keep our operation safe.

Agenda items for future meeting (postpone until September):

- 1. Describe the process on how the munitions are taken apart etc.**
- 2. Tell us the percentage of turnover so we can get a feel for what is going on at the plant.**
- 3. Discuss the corrosion problems in the decontamination system.**

DSHW Update – Marty Gray

Currently we are doing the mustard ton sampling. There are not a lot of impurities, but there are traces of heavy metals present. The breakdown of VX shouldn't affect processing detectors. The current permit is active until the new permit is in place, unless it is cancelled or denied. There is temporary authorization in the use procedure, not in the permit.

Q-RH-Who issues the temporary authorization?

A-The Executive Secretary's office. CAMDS has modifications to the permit out for public comment right now and we are evaluating those.

Q-DH-What heavy metals are you finding? What are the comparisons between GB/mustard?

A - Mercury and arsenic. The GB projos are higher in lead.

Q- Do you know the data yet?

A-No, not yet, we are not able to assess that. We might be able to report on this at the next meeting.

Q-JB-What is the time frame on the permit process?

A-It is out for public comment right now, mostly regarding regulatory issues. We should be able to report on that next meeting. We had over 90 pages of comments before, so I cannot give you a specific time frame.

Agenda Items for meeting (postpone until September):

- 1. Data on samples, the chemical composition.**
- 2. Results from the public comment period.**

There were no further questions from the commission.

There were no question s or concerns from the public.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Keene, MBA, Ph.D.

Acting CAC Chairman/State of Utah Science Advisor

Heather Greenwall, Recorder